REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

I.   Amendments

Claims 1, 8, 14 and 19 have been amended to add inherent language supporting Applicants' remarks filed August 2, 2006. Claim 9 is cancelled without prejudice as the subject matter contained therein was amended into claim 8 during the previous amendment and response (filed August 2, 2006).

The written description has been amended in paragraph 13 to correct a typographical error.

II.   Objections

Claim 8 stands objected to because, according to the current Office Action, the limitation "memory device capable of storing a context bit" should be on its own line and should instead read "memory devices capable of storing a context bit" since two devices are allegedly claimed later in the claim. Applicants respectfully disagree. The limitation "memory device capable of storing a context bit" is properly positioned within claim 8. The aforementioned limitation is actually part of the larger limitation "context bit memory device capable of storing a context bit." The limitation is consistent with the remainder of the claim (as discussed below) and with the originally filed specification. (See e.g., Fig. 1).

III.   Rejections

Claims 1-2, 6, 8-9, 11-14, 16-17 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,061,786 to Witt ("Witt"). Claims 3-4, 10 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Witt. Claims 5, 7, 18 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Witt in view of U.S. patent No. 5,673,407 to Poland et al. ("Poland").

A. Independent Claims: 1, 8, 14 and 19

i. Independent Claim 1 and 19

The final Office Action (mailed 10/19/2006) stated that in contrast to Applicants' previous arguments, Applicants' claimed context bit is not or needs not be separate from the plurality of extra bits. (Page 3). "It is the opinion of the Examiner that the claim language lends itself to the interpretation that it is possible for the two parts to be combined. Separation of the two is not apparent in the claims." *Id.* Applicants disagreed for at least the following reasons: (1) the article "a" introduces the term "context bit" and the term "first instruction having a plurality of extra bits"; and (2) the context bit is read based on the plurality of extra bits according to the claim. To advance prosecution, however, Applicants amended claim 1 and 19 to include inherent language that indicates that the context bit is independent of the first instruction having a plurality of extra bits.

According to the Advisory Action (mailed 02/02/2007), claims 1 and 19 properly "impart the limitation of independence between the two types of bits." Therefore, claims 1 and 19 appear to be in proper condition for allowance for the reasons previously identified in the remarks filed August 2, 2006.

ii. Independent Claim 8 and 14

The Final Office Action stated that the "Examiner was unable to find evidence of [Applicant's claimed feature of a context bit separate from the plurality of extra bits] in claim 1 or any other claims." In response, Applicants respectfully drew the Examiner's attention to the specific language of claims 8 and 14 and noted that because the claimed context bit is stored in the context bit memory device and because the instructions (and their respective associated pluralities of extra bits) are stored in a first memory device, a singled memory, a plurality of memory locations, shared memory, etc., wherein each device is introduced by the article "a", the context bit and the pluralities of extra bits (each associated with a respective instruction) cannot

be the same physical piece of data. Applicants further noted that if the Office Action's proposition were true, i.e., if the context bit was one-and-the-same as the plurality of extra bits, the Office Action would have effectively rendered meaningless or otherwise eviscerated the claim terms "a context bit memory device" and "a first memory device". Applicants concluded that because each and every limitation of the claims must be interpreted and given proper consideration, the Office Action's analysis was facially improper and could not stand.

Ignoring most of the above remarks, the Advisory Action appears to focus only on the first portion of Applicants' argument. (*See* Advisory Action, Detailed Action, p. 2). The Advisory Action further states that the use of the article "a" is not sufficient to impart independence between the claimed context bit and the claimed plurality of extra bits. Applicants disagree based on the entire set of remarks summarized above. That is, if the context bit was one-and-the-same as the plurality of extra bits, the Office Action would render meaningless or otherwise eviscerate the claim terms "a context bit memory device" and "a first memory device." That is, the two devices would be the same; they are not. This portion of Applicants' previously-presented argument was not discussed in the Advisory Action. Because the Advisory Action failed to consider all of Applicants' remarks that clearly explained the inherent independence of the two claim terms, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Advisory Action's comments.

However, for the sake of advancing prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 8 and 14 such that they now contain inherent language explaining that the context bit is independent of the plurality of instructions including a plurality of extra bits. For the reasons articulated above, claims 8 and 14 are in proper condition for allowance.

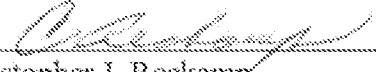### B.   Dependent claims 2-7, 10-13, 15-18 and 20-21

Claims 2-7, 10-13, 15-18 and 20-21 depend upon allowable claims 1, 8, 14, and 19 respectively and further contain additional novel, non-obvious and otherwise patentable subject

matter. For at least these reasons, the aforementioned claims are also believed to be allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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